MGW

newsMagazine

FREE

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Issue 528
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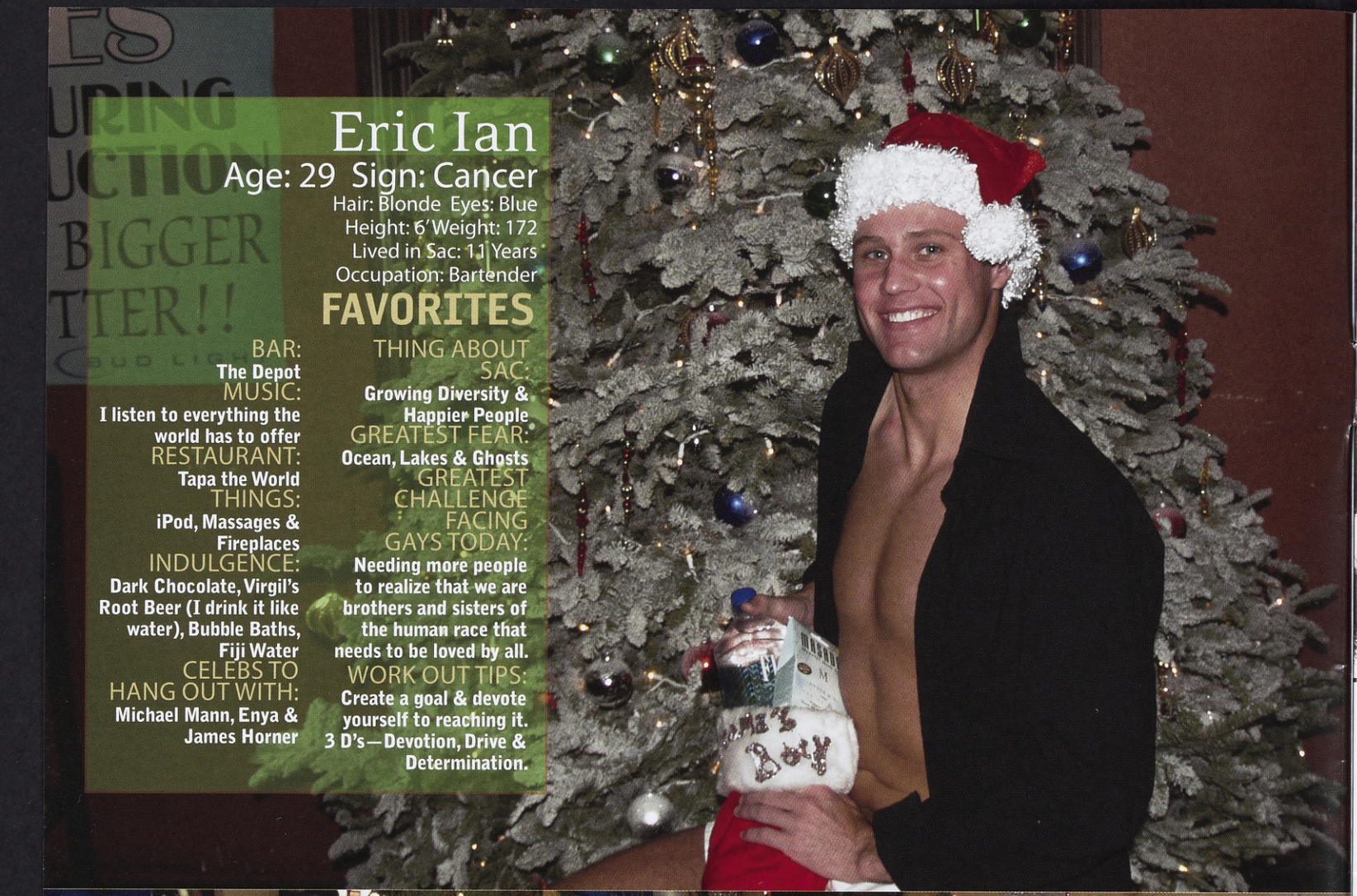
Season's Greetings!

December 15 | 06



Eric Ian

Age: 29 Sign: Cancer

Hair: Blonde Eyes: Blue
Height: 6'Weight: 172
Lived in Sac: 11 Years
Occupation: Bartender

FAVORITES

BAR:
The Depot

MUSIC:
I listen to everything the world has to offer

RESTAURANT:
Tapa the World

THINGS:
iPod, Massages & Fireplaces

INDULGENCE:
Dark Chocolate, Virgil's Root Beer (I drink it like water), Bubble Baths, Fiji Water

CELEBS TO HANG OUT WITH:
Michael Mann, Enya & James Horner

THING ABOUT SAC:
Growing Diversity & Happier People

GREATEST FEAR:
Ocean, Lakes & Ghosts

GREATEST CHALLENGE FACING GAYS TODAY:
Needing more people to realize that we are brothers and sisters of the human race that needs to be loved by all.

WORK OUT TIPS:
Create a goal & devote yourself to reaching it. 3 D's—Devotion, Drive & Determination.

Claire

Age: 29 Sign: Capricorn

Hair: (right now?) Fried Blonde
Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9 Weight: 150
Lived in Sac: Been back 5 Years
Occupation: Grad Student/Bartender

FAVORITES

BAR:
Townhouse (R.I.P. was & always will be the best), Depot & Golden Bear

MUSIC:
Death Cabs, Killers, Built to Spill, Kasabian, Radiohead, too many

RESTAURANT:
Elina's Kitchen

THINGS:
Camera, backcountry, snowboarding gear, my bikes & car because though it's old with an ugly color it gets me out of here!

INDULGENCE:
Alcohol, DUH!

CELEBS TO HANG OUT WITH:
Their poo smells too doesn't it?

THING ABOUT SAC:
Trees & close to mountains

GREATEST FEAR:
What my body will feel like at 50

GREATEST CHALLENGE FACING GAYS TODAY:
Segregation within our community. If we can't integrate socially how can we expect to make political & social change in the rest of the world?

WORK OUT TIPS:
Diversify, good music. Go with friends, make it fun!

528

EDITORIAL

2 MAMA'S KIDS
3 Q&A
4 DISPATCH
5 RESPONSE
8 OPERA
12 TV
22 FILM
24 MUSIC
25 DVD
27 HIV NEWSWIRE
30 BUSINESS DIRECTORY

FEATURES

7 1801 L
9 SOMETHING FABULOUS
10 JENNIFER HUDSON INTERVIEW
14 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Q AND A

Compiled by Tony G.

Tony G. Q&A Columnist

It's interesting how people reacted when asked this month's Q&A question. Most of them demanded time to think about it. But when I returned 5-10 minutes later, they hadn't thought about it one bit. "It needs to be something profound," they would tell me. Funny thing is, it was the few who answered almost immediately who, in my opinion, had the most profound answers. As for myself, I would get rid of the word "like" We use it way too much.

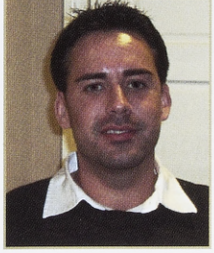
If you could erase any word from exsistence, what would it be?

ADRIAN BARRON
Sacramento
Training Specialist

The word I would get rid of would be "Orange" because nothing rhymes with it. (asked @ FACES Nightclub)

BENJAMEN
Rancho Cordova
Inventor Coordinator

It would be antiestablishmentarianism. 'Cause it's just too damn long. (asked @ Rancho Cordova Parking lot)

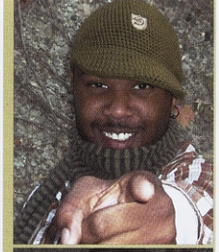


DOUG
Sacramento
Financial Services

Words are the naming of the world around us. To get rid of a word, we'd have to get rid of what it represents. I'd say good-bye to fear—the word and the emotion. No more hatred born of fear of that which we don't understand...and the list goes on. (asked @ Speak Easy Lounge)

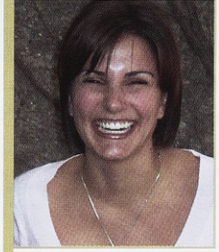
JOS
Sacramento
Medical Billing

Justice. We have all forgotten it's meaning and it rarely prevails, so let's stop acting like there is such a thing. (asked @ Parking Lot in Rancho Cordova)



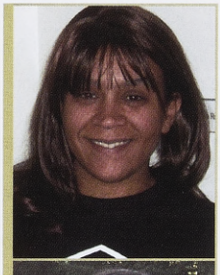
JUSTIN
Sacramento
Business Analyst

The "N"-Word because of how it was used in the past and used now. We throw the word around so much where people feel it's not wrong to say when it really still is. (asked @ Golden Bear)



MELISSA
Folsom
Trainer

Hate. It would be an interesting world without it. (asked @ Powerhouse)

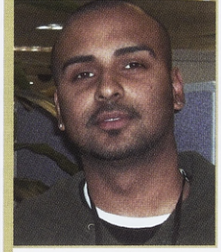


ROCHELLE
Sacramento
Research Analyst

Stupid. Stupidity causes hatred and others to get hurt. It is one thing to be ignorant—ignorance causes mistakes that you learn from. Stupidity causes the same mistake to happen that you didn't learn from and can hurt others. (asked @ Parking Lot in Rancho Cordova)

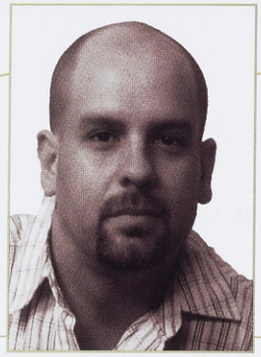
SHAUNTEEN
Sacramento
Operator

Cant. I don't like when a person says or feels they can't do or accomplish something. We should always have positive attitudes. (asked @ A Parking Lot)



ZAVED
Sacramento
Trainer

Hate. It's the strongest and most hurtful word you can say to any human. (asked @ Somewhere In Sacramento)



From The Publisher

"Be Part Of The Solution...Pt. 2"

"Be not ashamed to learn the truth from any source" (Ibn Gabitel) –Rabbi Joseph Radinsky

I am always amazed at the spectrum of thought when it comes to how we as a community feel we should educate, protest and represent ourselves. To most of mainstream heterosexual society, the GLBT community is seen as a single collective—much like the Borg—with a single political and social agenda clearly mapped out. Anyone who has spent even a minimal amount of time in our community knows this is not the case.

To the struggle for equality, we each bring our own core values, individual experiences, prejudices and sadly, whatever traces of self-homophobia that may still linger within our psyche. Many of these qualities stem from our childhood, and for most of us, that was spent immersed in the heterosexual belief system.

When we come out and begin acclimating to our new culture, we as "gay-babies" are educated on our new core beliefs—1. We are a repressed minority; 2. We want equality on every level. These become the Holy Commandments of our new gay life.

How we implement these new beliefs into our preexisting belief system is where things start to get complicated.

Several weeks ago, my boyfriend and I were walking through K-Street Mall on our way to see the new James Bond flick. At 25, he has been out for almost two years. As we strolled along the upper level, he put his arm around me and left it there. Slightly self-conscious, I noticed most everyone passing us by staring at us. Some smiled, some looked away as my eyes met theirs, but no one reacted outwardly negative.

When I told my friend about this experience, he flinched. At 36 and having come out over 18 years ago, his experiences stem back into the days when an arm-in-arm stroll through the Mall could have resulted in a civil-disobedience arrest or worse. Years before that would have been a death-wish. The beliefs my 36-year-old friend brought with him allowed him to take the "gay-beliefs" and use them to become an activist, yet they also instilled in him a fear that continues to make him look over his shoulder.

This is a fear my boyfriend rejects along with the core gay beliefs. He does not think of himself as a repressed minority, nor does he consider himself any less equal that anyone else.

While the age difference plays a part in these divided viewpoints, much of the difference is due to the values they bring with them from their past.

Some of us bring beliefs that make us act out, join political groups and protest on street corners. Others believe in the quiet but firm approach: writing letters, showing by example and educating. Still others decide that doing nothing is their statement as they live their lives brash, unapologetic and "very in-your-face". This is only the tip of the iceberg.

Working in the news industry, it is often our job to keep up to date on the hard stories. We learn to not look away as we receive continuous reports of hate-crimes and injustice, not to engage hate calls, and to always know exactly what others think of us. The good, the bad and the ugly—we must be educated on where we stand. It is our job to take this information and use it to inform and educate our readers.

Over the past year, MGW has become more entertainment based. As it has, the news we report has taken a lighter edge. But we never forget that there is prejudice around every corner and we can't shy away from that.

In the Response section of this issue, there is a letter from a community member named Kylee, who responded to my last column encouraging readers to contact us. Thank you, Kylee, for taking us up on that invitation. She felt the answers to the Q&A question "What would you ask the gay community" did not reflect our community in a positive light and that some should not have been printed. Some inquired about drug use, others about promiscuity, etc.

While she may not have realized that many of those who answered were GLBT themselves—mostly youth—struggling to understand their community... there were several hard questions. Questions that to some may seem offensive. In particular, the question asked at the Merc by a young woman wanting to know if gays thought we were going to Heaven since being gay is a major sin in the Bible. Kylee felt "MGW should serve to further the good of our community, the love, the beauty in difference. Not to waste time and space supporting Queer Hate, or at the very least Queer Repulse."

I wonder how my boyfriend would feel? Or my 36-year-old friend? I imagine one might agree and the other would launch into a diatribe about facing things head on. As for me, I feel we do a decent job of representing all aspects of our community: again, the good the bad and the ugly.

We can't deny that these questions are out there. But did anyone consider that maybe what if the young woman's question was genuine? What if she is asking to be educated? We asked a question that was intended to start a dialogue. She continued that dialogue with a real question many straight people have. Are we then going to tell her it's impolite to ask? Censor her because it makes us uncomfortable—or more to the point, we're just tired of repeating the answer for the millionth time?

Are we happy with our core values? Happy being a repressed minority? If not...answer her question.

Publisher@mgwnews.com

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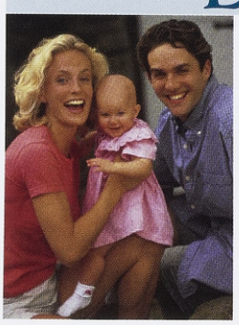

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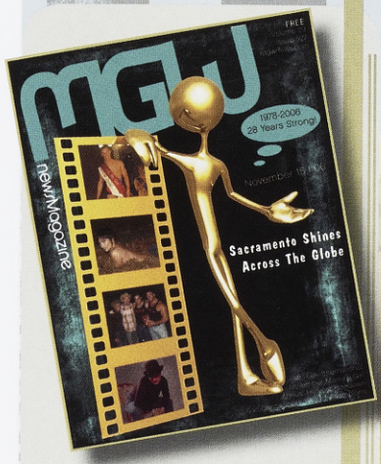
RESPONSE

PREVIOUS ISSUE



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ACCEPTING THE INVITE

I appreciate your open invite to wax poetic directly with you and not third hand. Perfect timing as I am embarrassed and irate with Tony G's Q&A expose on "what would you ask the gay community" (11/15, page 3).

While my opinion is that there were some valid questions (non traditional family raising kids, men's g spot [cute], lipstick lezzies), most were inappropriate and harmful to a community that continually struggles to REDUCE short-mindedness.

The questions shouldn't have been asked (most definitely), or certain questions shouldn't have appeared in the article (at the least). Some apology or damage control is called for. Questions from the young lady, in a gay bar, asking if the 'gay community thought it/we would go to heaven as being gay is a major sin in the Bible' (What is she doing in a gay bar enjoying us and bashing us?!). 'Why is the gay community so promiscuous', and 'why is drug use so prevalent' serve no useful purpose and are a form of gay bashing that MGW is only supporting. "What is your favorite thing about being gay" (as if there was a choice here!), and "Why are you gay" (again, asked at a GAY BAR) are inappropriate. And I firmly believe that if these are our straight "friends", they have no place being in a gay bar with these attitudes.

While the questions are shocking and illustrative (and unfortunate) of some non-gay beliefs about our lifestyle and community, MGW should serve to further the good of our community, the love, the beauty in difference. Not to waste time and space supporting Queer Hate, or at the very least Queer Repulse.

You really should apologize to us as a community.

KYLEE ROE
Community Member

LAMADRID UPDATE

On Oct. 16, I received a call from Laura Rathe informing me that she, her husband Wayne and Trish Cox were coming with their two search dogs, Charley and Hazer to assist me in searching for missing person Kathy LaMadrid. We have not found anything as of yet. The Search Teams will come back to search again towards spring when it stops raining.

We are in need of donations. It will cost another $550.00 bringing the cost to $2,150. If there is anyone who could help us with fundraising that would be greatly appreciated.

I want to thank Laura, Wayne, Trish, Charley & Hazer for all their on going efforts in Kathy's search. Without you, we would not have the possibility of finding Kathy. You are all the flame on the candles I light, in hopes that we can bring Kathy home soon. We will not give up Hope.

On Dec. 17 Kathy will have been missing for two years. On this day her family will hold a Candlelight Vigil in her memory and I am extending an invitation to the community to join us and light a candle in Kathy's memory as well as to signify that we have never given up hope that she will be found. The event will be held at 10500 Chaplain Ave., Mather Air Force Base, Rancho Cordova, in California at 10am.

Please donate to the search for Kathy: The Kathryn LaMadrid Fund, c/o Placer Sierra Bank, Roseville Sq. Banking Center, 110 Harding Blvd., Roseville,CA 95678 Acct manager Angela Schubot.

SHELLI LAMADRID
Community Member

GERMANY CALLING...

Hi there from Hamburg, Germany
Please excuse my poor English, but I just wanted to express my respect to all the participants of the [first LGBTQ Sacramento Town Hall Meeting over the Slavic/Gay Conflict].

Personally, I was amazed by the facts—how easy it is to transport the so-called "American way of life" to my country. As a matter of fact, we have the same tragic situations, happening in the gay and lesbian communities over here, too. I am also impressed by the professionally people kept in mind because from what I've experienced—anger rises too quickly.

Here in Hamburg, [we have our first gay Mayor] and in Berlin—our capitol, as well. Sad, but true, it didn't help to improve things for same-sex partnerships and tolerance across my nation at all. But that's another story.

In my eyes, your town hall meeting is a very good example for how the exchange between magistrates, police and religious communities should be. So, you get a big applause from me! I hope you'll get the chance, and keep your personal motivation to continue like that.

I wish you all the best

KURT KETTLER
Hamburg, Germany

Ed. Note: For more information log on to standupsac.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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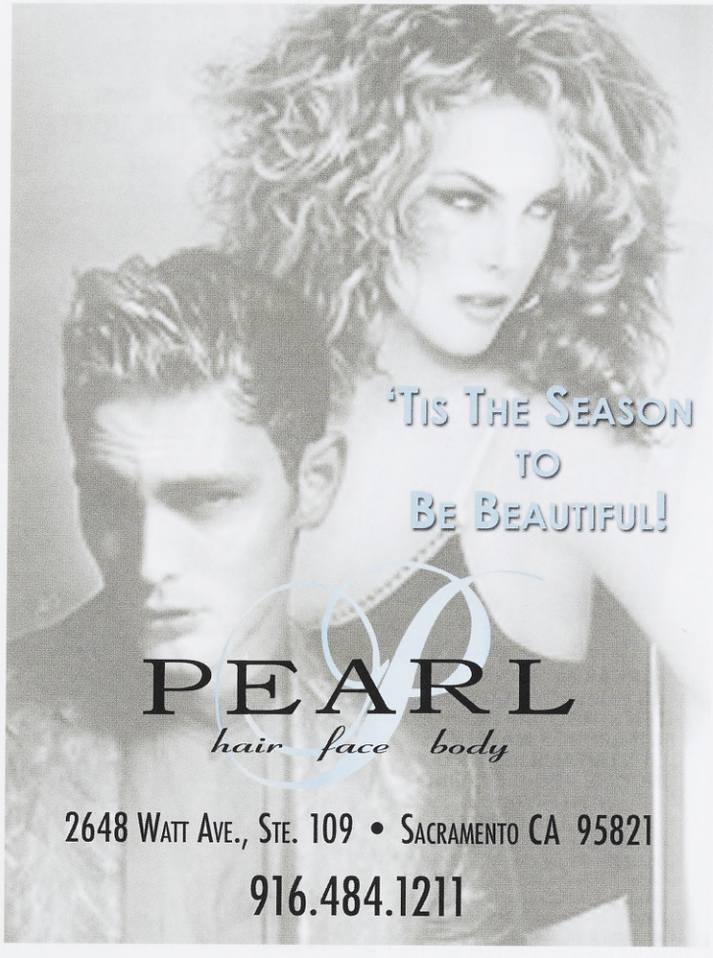

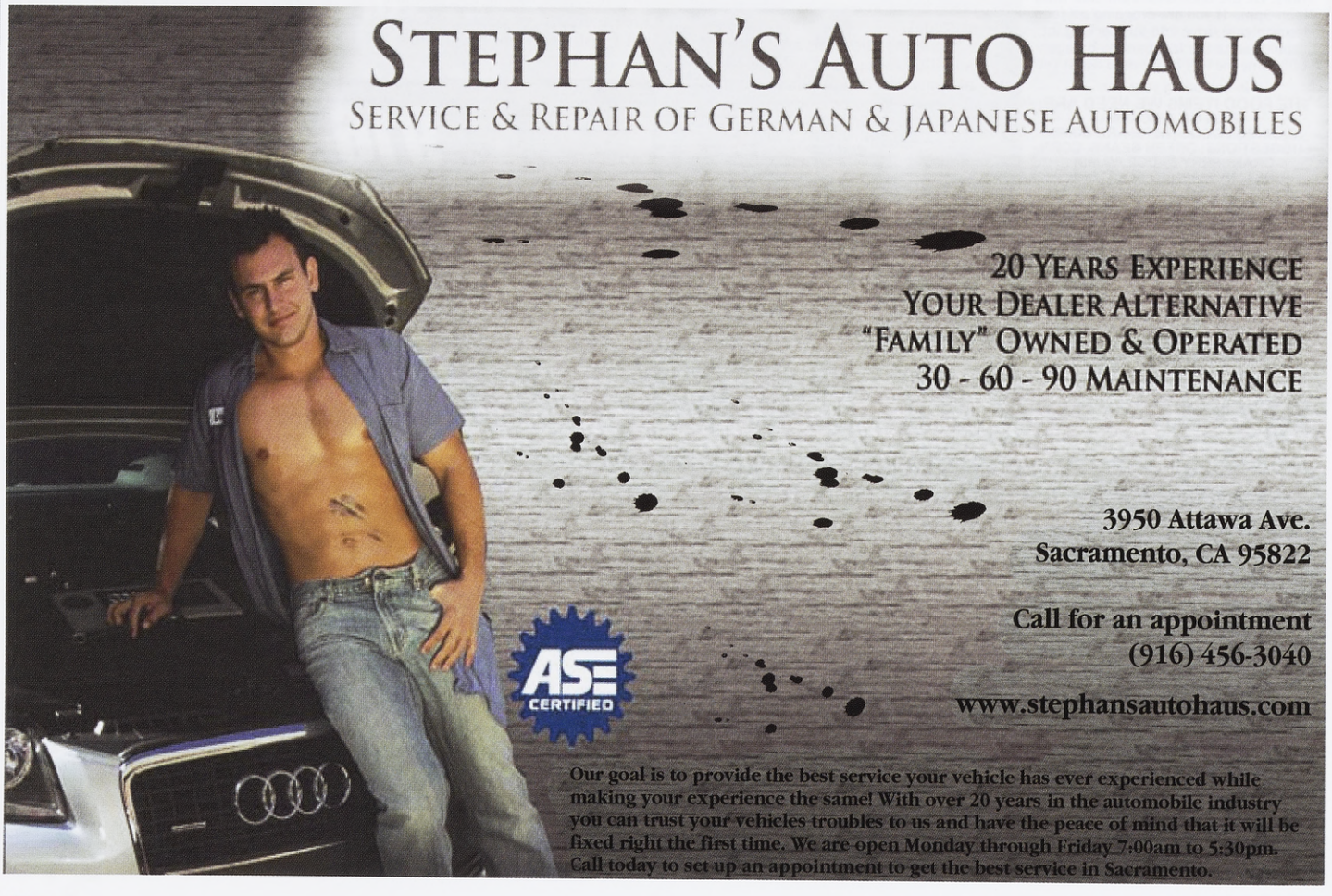
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Photo By Terrence McCarthy

"Carmen" and "Manon Lescaut" at San Francisco Opera

Story By Wayne R. Anderson

Bizet's ever-popular "Carmen" returned to the SFO in a remounting of Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's 1981 production. The colorful realistic sets still work well after 25 years, but it might be time for a new production.

To succeed, "Carmen" requires a compelling Carmen, and Israeli mezzo soprano Hadar Halevy was just not up to it. She is a handsome woman with a luscious voice, but it failed to open up on the big climaxes, such as in the Habanera and Seguidilla. Her acting was good enough, but lacked the fire that would drive men to kill for her. She just seemed too nice. Her Don Jose was the Italian tenor Marco Berti. His powerful ringing tones made their greatest effect in the dramatic declamatory scenes, as in the murder of Carmen. But in more delicate phrases, such as the Act I duet with Micaela, he lacked full control. His acting was most convincing at showing Jose's violent side.

Ana Maria Martinez portrayed an innocent girlish Micaela. Despite a slight graininess to her tone, her singing was pleasing. Bass-baritone Kyle Ketelsen was very convincing as the toreador Escamillo. In addition to sexy good looks, his smooth voice bloomed effortlessly on the big notes. Ricardo Herrera was especially effective in his portrayal of Zuniga, and mezzo soprano Kendall Gladen (Mercedes) looks like some to keep an eye on in the future. The chorus handled its large assignment well. Conductor Sebastian Lang-Lessing usually kept things moving, but some passages, such as the opening of the second act, seemed inordinately slow. The performance returned to Bizet's original spoken dialogue instead of the recitatives composed after his death. (Ironically this dialogue led to the opera's initial failure since it mandated that the work be presented at the Opera Comique rather than the Paris Opera, where its violent low-life characters shocked the staid audience.)

By the early 1890s the fledgling Puccini badly needed a success after the disappointing reception of his first two efforts, "Le Villi" and "Edgar." He boldly chose a story already successfully set by Massenet, and the result, "Manon Lescaut," was a huge hit and has remained in the repertory every since.

The chief attraction of the SFO production was the Manon of Finnish soprano Karita Mattila. One of the most exciting operatic artists before the public today, her mesmerizing acting and dramatic singing are the focal point of any opera in which she appears. And so it was here. Her Manon progressed from a timid youngster in Act I to a bored puppet-like courtesan in Act II to a desperate woman in the last two acts. Her dark powerful soprano soared out over the orchestra yet could also be intimately scaled down to a whisper. And yet, in spite of all her talents, she did not seem well-matched to this opera. While her soprano soars, it does not have the luscious Italianate richness that singers such as Freni or Tebaldi brought to this music. And in Act II, when she sought to portray Manon as a doll-like puppet, she over-acted almost to the point of comedy. So, while a good performance, her Manon fell short of expectations.

Ukranian tenor Misha Didyk sang and acted passionately as her on-again off-again lover Des Grieux, but he too lacked a rich rounded tone. Baritone John Hancock was effective vocally and dramatically as her manipulative brother Lescaut. As her gigolo (and eventual denouncer) Geronte de Revoir, Eric Halfvarson, with his powerful bass, was a menacing presence instead of a foolish dandy. Sean Panikkar sang lyrically as the student Edmondo, and Kendall Gladen was a pleasure to hear in the brief role of the Singer. The chorus sang and acted well, and Donald Runnicles led an exciting forwardly-paced yet emotional performance. The colorful realistic sets from Chicago's Lyric Opera were an asset.

Photo By Terrence McCarthy

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SOMETHING FABULOUS

By David Warpness

Just a short stumble away from your favorite watering hole in Midtown is little place of magic that the fairy gods created just in time for the holidays. Hidden in the basement of 1927 L Street (that's the Lambda Community Center and yes it is right across the street from the Merc) is "Something Fabulous" and for once a name doesn't mislead, in fact it may just not do this store justice.

Hand carved Russian Santa's, one of a kind items from Brazil, Germany, Mexico, Japan, Bulgaria, China, the USA and more. Items include hand woven rugs, sculptures, paintings and yes, even tacky rainbow Christmas trees that come in various sizes, as do we, so everyone should be able to find one that fits just right. Can a home really be gay without one?

"Our biggest challenge is getting people to discover it." Stated Lester L. Neblett, III Executive Director of the Lambda Community Center. Neblett owned an art gallery in Davis before coming to the Lambda Community Center and it was his connections that enabled to "Something Fabulous" to be filled with unique items from all over the world, many of which are not available anywhere else in the area.

Center Manager Luis Gomez states, "Most people come in and just say 'wow'. They do not expect this type of store in this location."

People are also surprised at how reasonable the prices are as items range from $2.25 to $1200. When compared item to item at other quality gift stores "Something Fabulous" has some seriously fabulous prices. One must remember though that the store is mostly ran by volunteers and there was no major overhead as the space was already there so it was decided that the prices should be reasonable to honor those that shop there. Also all of the proceeds go to benefit the programs of our Lambda Community Center.

"People are surprised to see the wide range of products and the uniqueness of the gifts", says Neblett. "My plan is for this to go beyond Christmas but we will need more Center volunteers. We have really great volunteers now but we do need more."

When asked about the name of the store Neblett and Gomez smile. While in the planning stages a sign was put up stating "Something Fabulous is coming". Once is was time to decide on a name one board member noted how the sign already said something fabulous is coming so why not just name the store that? Neblett and Gomez both seem proud at how gay it sounds. It is refreshing to see that kind of happy gay pride in Sacramento.

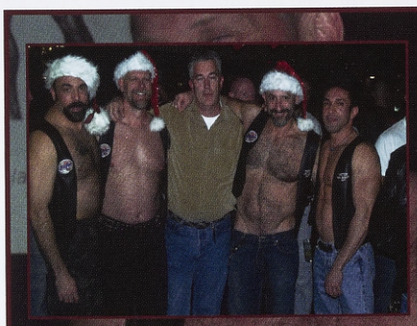
"Something Fabulous" is currently open Tuesday-Saturday from 12-6pm. The store has also become a part of the Second Saturday art walk and it extends it hours until 10pm on those nights.

For info on volunteering at Lambda Community Center or 'Something Fabulous" call the center at 916.442.0185.

DEPOT HOSTS SUCCESFUL TOYS FOR TOTS NIGHT

By Claire Hildebrand

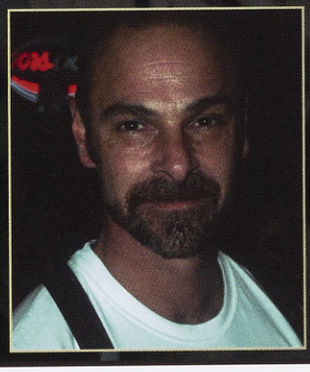
Tues. Dec. 12. The Depot Video Bar threw a very successful Toys For Tots benefit collecting over 300 toys to donate. The night was part of a weekly Make-A-Date night on Tuesdays that has monthly rotating hosts and one major event per month. The night included host Lee Hudson, bartender Santas, and a sexy stripper around midnight. The Depot would like to thank all customers who took the time and effort to bring in a donation.

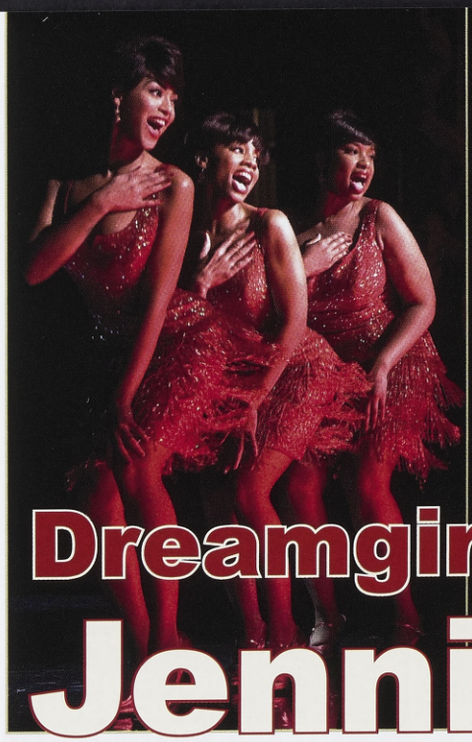


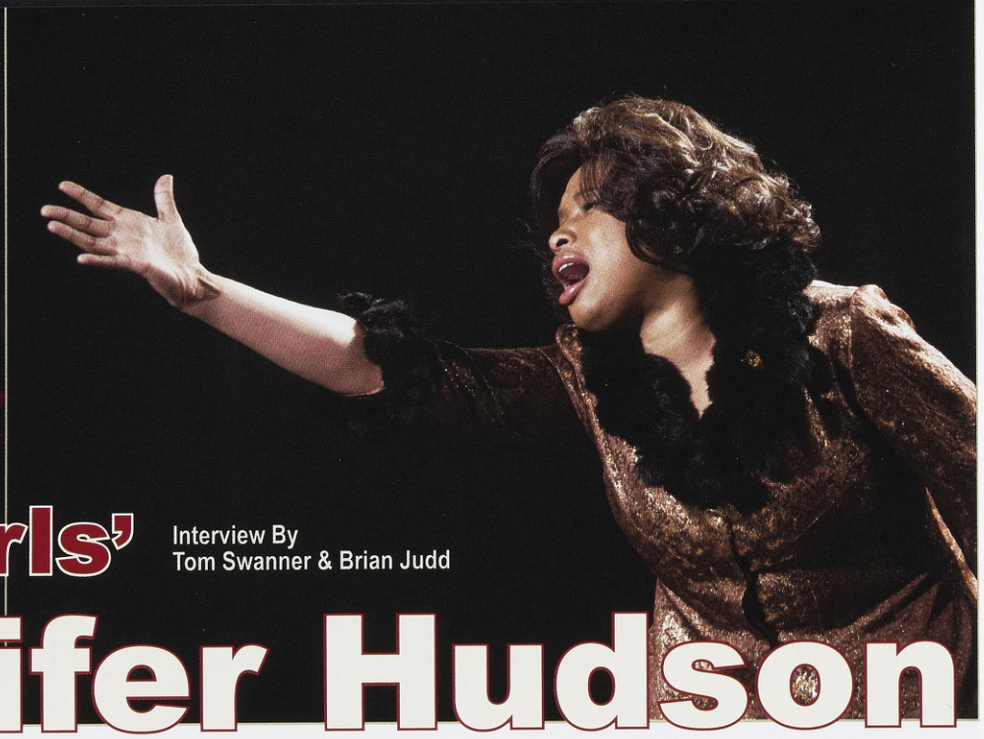
Photos By Matthew Burlingame

THE BOLT

On Dec. 2, The Bolt played host to the SOMA Bare Chest Calendar Men. The calendar is a benefit for the S.F. AIDS Emergency Fund. Both the Bolt and the men from SOMA enjoyed a large turnout for the event. For more information on the calendar log on to: somabarechestcalendar.org. For information on upcoming Bolt events logon to: sacbolt.com







Dreamgirls' Jennifer Hudson

Interview By
Tom Swanner & Brian Judd

Judd: Right off the bat, do you consider Ephie White a supporting or lead character?

Jennifer: All I know is that she's definitely an important factor in the storyline. Everybody has such strong roles and they gave such strong performances.

Swanner: Well, you did sing the show-stopper.

Hudson: Wow. Thank you.

Judd: What was it like working with so many veteran actors? You've got a Tony Award-winning show, you've got Oscar-winning actors and director. You've got Loretta Divine who was in the original stage production of Dreamgirls. You must have been shaking. Were you shaking the moment you met Loretta?

Hudson: She's so sweet. I think I got most nervous in the beginning when I met the main cast. I was sitting at the head of the table and had Danny Glover here and Eddie Murphy here and Jamie over here and Beyonce—I was like, "Oh! Why are you sitting me at the head of the table?!" That was the most intimidating moment for me being the newcomer.

Judd: Bill Condon said in an interview, "Jennifer needs to get nasty." What was that about?

Hudson: Bill would say, "You're too sweet. I want you to get angry. I need you to be Ephie. Roughen it up; get angry." I remember him shaking me in the street and he was like "Ugh! Would you just get upset! It's OK! Walk out! Throw something! Be late!" He would have me leave him waiting for hours and that's what I was supposed to do, because that's what Ephie would do and think nothing of it. Or he'd have me sit in vocal rehearsal with Anika and Beyonce singing and I'd just sit there. And they'd look at me like, "Why aren't you singing?" And I had to say, "I don't have to warm up." I had 48 hours off for Christmas and everybody else had two weeks—I had to come back for Diva 101 and Bill would drill me on how to be a bitch.

Judd: Speaking of Divas, what do you think about generations of drag queens from now until forever are going to be lip syncing to your version of "And I'm Telling You"?

Hudson: (Laughs) I love it and I want to see every single one! You need to call me up and I will be there! That's exciting!

Swanner: What impressed me most is the audience sat during the closing credits and they saw Eddie Murphy's name and Jamie Foxx's name and when your name came up they applauded. It was like watching *Funny Girl* for the first time.

Hudson: Thank you.

Judd: What was one thing you learned about yourself during the whole process that you didn't know?

Hudson: I learned that dreams are reachable and I can achieve my goals.

Swanner: So, where do you plan on calling home? L.A., New Y—

Hudson: Chicago. There's no place like home, and I'm looking at a place as we speak. Hopefully I'm rich enough one day to live in Chicago, LA and New York. (Laughs.)

Swanner: What was the transition like going from recording studios to the movie set?

Hudson: It was actually harder to do in the studio than on stage, because in the studio it's all in your head. There is no one there in your face. You have to put it all in your head and still portray it just the same.

Judd: What about the choreography?

Hudson: Now that was a challenge! (Laughs.) I am NOT a dancer at all. And that's where Beyonce came in handy. She's a pro at it. I don't know how she do it but she does. That was the biggest challenge for me. I probably cried like eight times.

Judd: What about the time you put in on the Disney cruise ships?

Hudson: Ooh! OK, let me tell you about the Disney cruise ship! (Big laugh.) I was so bad at dancing the director had to change the show around me and they told me to "just sit there and sing. Don't do nothing else!" But it helped prepare me for what was next and that's what I did for Dreamgirls. You have to get it in the body. I was spending about six hours in dance rehearsal and then I would go back home and work on the choreography some more.

Swanner: What's your favorite scene in Dreamgirls?

Hudson: Outside of "And I'm Telling You", my favorite scene is the welfare scene because it's so real.

Swanner: How much did you work with Barry Manilow?

Hudson: Barry Manilow! I love Barry Manilow! He is the sweetest man. I worked with him for two weeks on Idol. I credit him for teaching me how to build and tell a story. Barry said, "You cannot just sing a song. You have to tell it; you have to portray it. You have to draw the people in." And that's what was needed for "And I'm Telling You".

Swanner: About American Idol, I'm a big fan, but you hear that it's a blessing and a curse—no matter what you do, you're known for being on Idol.

Hudson: I don't think it should be something that any Idol should be ashamed of—there are only a couple of us in the world that have had that experience. It's a phenomenon. Who wouldn't want to be a part of that? And thank God for American Idol because if it weren't for Idol, I wouldn't be here.

Judd: You don't seem egotistical in any way, but, because you got kicked off half way—is there any feeling of "Look who's having the last laugh?"

Hudson: It does feel good! But that's not me. Every time I do start to get a big head I realize that it's not me, it's God, and that keeps me level-headed.

Judd: Have you met any other legends?

Hudson: I met Whitney Houston. She stopped me and my mouth dropped on the floor. She was so nice and she looked great. And I love my Whitney.

Swanner: A couple of years ago you were one of a thousand; now you're working with Jamie Foxx and Beyonce. What's that like for you?

Hudson: I can't believe it. Every once in awhile I'll wonder "Is this a dream? Am I dead? What's going on?" Oprah called me! She said, "Your performance was phenomenal. It was amazing. It was a religious experience. And those still aren't the words..." And she just kept on—I couldn't get a word in edgewise!

Judd: What's been the best advice you've received?

Hudson: "It's not about how good you are; it's about how good you are to work with." That really stuck with me.

Swanner: Have you seen one of your public screenings?

Hudson: You know I just got back from London and I did sneak in to the ending credits and it brought tears to my eyes to see people in London applauding for me. It was overwhelming.

Judd: The costumes, the wigs, and makeup were flawless. Have you ever been through something with so many costumes?

Hudson: No...and you better believe I got a picture of every one of those wigs! I mean it's a girl's dream.

Judd: And some boys'.

Hudson: Yes!

Swanner: I read, they wanted a skinnier Ephie. What would you say to women in the industry who aren't rail thin?

Hudson: To me it's never been about the image—especially in my case. And talent will prevail in the end.

Judd: David Geffen was one of the producers of the film. Have you met him?

Hudson: Oh, yes. Mister Geffen. (bows her head).

Judd: The reason I ask is because he is the most powerful gay man in Hollywood.

Hudson: I never thought of it that way. Yes, he is. I never got many words out of Geffen.

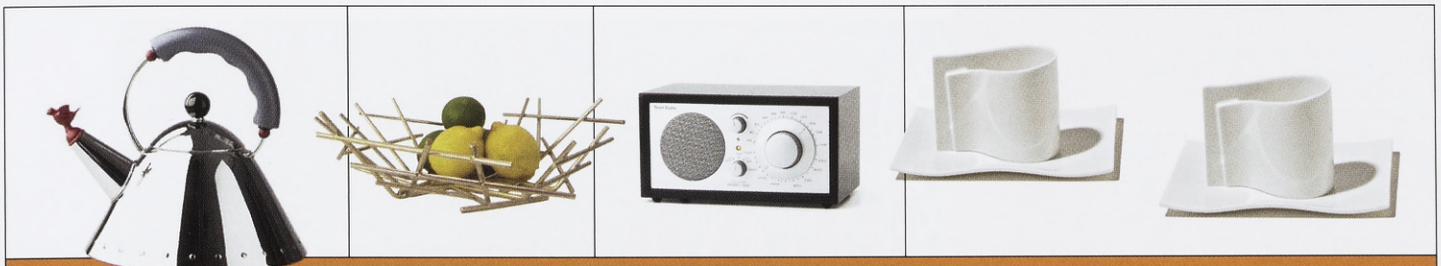
Swanner: Wait, you call Barry Manilow 'Barry', but you call David Geffen 'Geffen'?

Hudson: Absolutely! David Geffen walks into the room and everyone is like (whispering) "There goes Geffen. Don't move. Don't move. There goes Geffen." He's very...quiet. His presence is quite demanding, but he really doesn't say much at all.

Swanner: Who on *Dreamgirls* gave you the most? From Beyonce to the costume lady that's been with the studio since the silent days. Who got you through it?

Hudson: Bill Condon, no doubt about it. He was our angel.

Judd: That's about all the time we have so thank you very much for the interview and I can't wait to see *Dreamgirls* again. I'll actually pay this time!



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"I think people will say here we go again—another crazy Bakker. But I'm just trying to be true to myself and true to my convictions." So says alternative Christian minister jay Bakker, whose life and career will be explored in One Punk Under God. Each of the six installments take a behind-the-scenes look at his life as he faces the professional, emotional and financial struggles of running his Revolution Church. The series will air on Wednesdays at 9pm.

It was 20 years ago when Jim Bakker's unholy fall from grace made headlines. Jay, the only son of the Praise The Lord leaders, was emotionally torn by the experiences of his family, which lead to quitting school and abusing drugs and alcohol.

Now, laden with over 60 tattoos and sporting a number of piercings, the leader of the aptly named Revolution Church is not necessarily the image of an American evangelist. His resolutely maverick stance and open tolerance for alternative lifestyle choices irritate traditional religious leaders, and keeping his church afloat is a challenge.

But by fusing together punk and Christian values to create a non-denominational and inclusive parish, he is working to show the world just how hip and welcoming today's churches can be, with Revolution chapters in Atlanta, Charlotte and New York City.

For those without cable, each episode of "One Punk Under God" will be available on iTunes the day after it shows on Sundance Channel for $1.99 (US) each.

December 13, 9pm
Episode 1. Bakker ponders the future of his 12-year-old church, Jay consults with his wife, Amanda and with revolution's director, Stu Damron, a successful businessman. Meanwhile father and son have a troubled relationship, but the grave illness of mother, Tammy Faye has increased jay's longing for reconciliation. Jay decides to make the first move in reaching out to his dad.

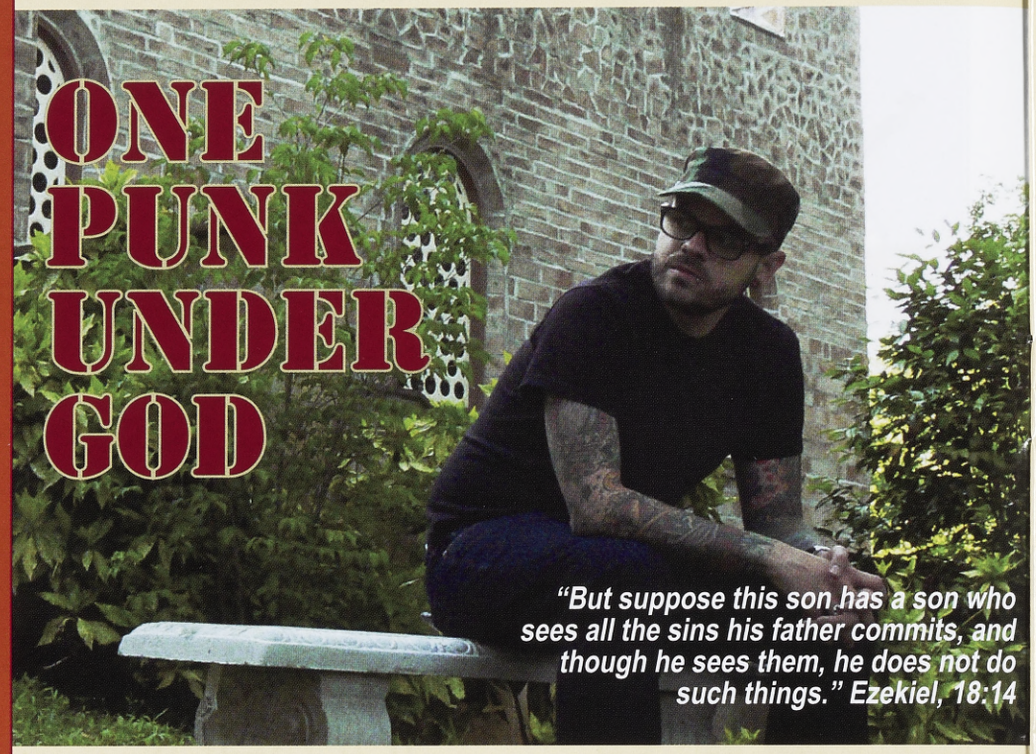
December 20, 9pm
Episode 2. After speaking at the gay-affirming church open door, Jay embarks on a soul-searching journey to define his stance on homosexuality. Meanwhile, Jay's efforts to get in touch with Jim Bakker finally bear fruit, news he shares during a warm visit with his mother, Tammy Faye. Jay now has in mind to pay his father a long overdue visit. In Atlanta, Jay delivers one of the most important sermons of his life.

December 27, 9pm
Episode 3. Jay's strong gay-affirming stance begins to impact Revolution's financial health. Wife Amanda pursues her dream of attending NYU's Pre-Med Program. Jay travels to Branson, MI to see his father—an emotionally charged visit includes an appearance on Jim's TV show.

January 3, 9pm
Episode 4. Upon his return to Atlanta, Jay is greeted with grim news about a Revolution donor. Amanda has been accepted at NYU. With Amanda's happiness and his marriage in the balance, Jay faces the prospect of leaving not only the city he loves, but the church he founded. If Jay leaves, what will become of Revolution?

January 10, 9pm
Episode 5. Jay and Amanda travel to NY to see the city before making their final choice about the move. While Amanda is excited and energized, Jay worries about feeling comfortable in this intense, often overwhelming city and the potential impact on the couple's marriage. Jay has a heart-wrenching visit with Tammy Faye in NC which reveals the scope of her deteriorating health.

January 17, 9pm
Episode 6. Jay and Amanda Transition into new lives in Brooklyn, where Jay begins the campaign to build his new ministry, Revolution NYC. The task of establishing a ministry in a new city is made even more difficult as jay continues to struggle with Tammy Faye's declining health.


ONE PUNK UNDER GOD
"But suppose this son has a son who sees all the sins his father commits, and though he sees them, he does not do such things." Ezekiel, 18:14

"When we first began filming, and Jay made the decision to go public as a gay affirming pastor, I could not have fully understood the weight of that decision. As cameras followed him for months afterwards, people involved with the church became unavailable for filming, finances were threatened, family relationships were strained, and Jay faced new challenges professionally, personally, and spiritually. The choices he made in response to these events provided revealing insight into the man behind the punk rock image. As his stability continued to be threatened, and his convictions continued to be tested, a very personal portrait emerged from one of America's most public families." —Director Jeremy Simmons **Airing through January 2007** **sundancechannel.com**

"Mr. Leather" is an unforgettable journey into the lives of today's leathermen and the exciting, sexy and hilarious world of Leather Contests. It is a touching, never-before-seen view of an underground gay lifestyle that is as funny as it is inspiring. From home, to work, to the bars, to the sex shop, we follow nine contestants to see who will be crowned the next Mr. Los Angeles Leather.

"Mr. Leather" tells the story behind the 2003 Mr. LA Leather Contest, the largest leather gathering on the West Coast. The documentary takes the audience deep into the lives of the contestants as they reveal everything from the most intimate to the most mundane facets of this little understood lifestyle. We witness the spectrum of sexual fetishes, the love of leather and kink, and the appeal of this subculture. As the final contest looms, the tension mounts. They study leather history, practice their speeches, and make last minute purchases, agonizing over their outfits and strategy. They are as varied as nine men can be, but they all share the same dream, as they strap on their jock straps and leather chaps, step up onto the stage and compete for the title of Mr. Leather.

Airing through December 2006 **heretv.com**

LOGO announced the green light and summer 2007 premiere of Curl Girls, a six-part reality series currently in production, that follows six lesbian friends in Los Angeles through a summer of competition in friendship, romance, fashion and, most important, surfing. The announcement was made by Brian Graden, President, Entertainment, MTV Networks Music Group, and President, Logo. Logo is the nation's leading 24/7 television and broadband channel and source of entertainment for the GLBT audience.

Born from an original Logo documentary of the same name that became a sleeper hit when it aired in 2005, Curl Girls follows the lives of six gay women as they create their own Southern California surfing competition. Filming commenced on the show in the summer of 2006 and production will be completed by the end of the year. Complementing the show will be significant online and digital components available at LOGOonline.com and afterellen.com as well as the nation's leading digital content providers. The Curl Girls friends work as professionals in law, business, fashion and more but share the same passion: surfing. As they spend the summer catching waves on the California coast, they realize that they not only share a passion for surfing, but they also share a summer's worth of change. Conflict plagues old relationships, romances ignite, new friendships form and competition swells the waters where they surf. **Airing in 2007** **logoonline.com**

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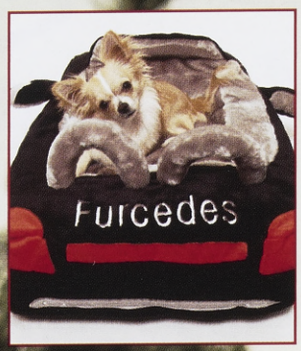

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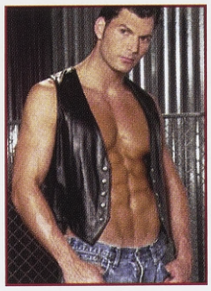

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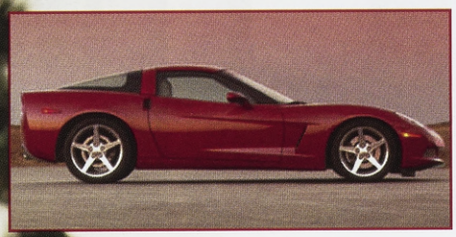

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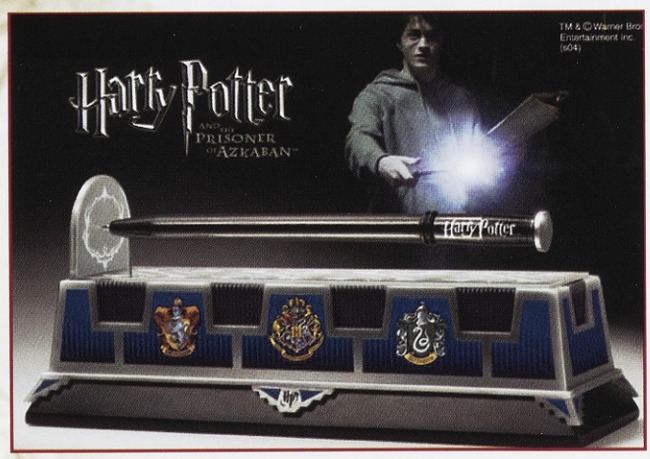

Retro Appliances
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No trend is hotter than the retro craze - impacting everything from clothing to cars. Now even appliances are available for the retro enthusiast who must have everything. Northstar™, a new line of 50s style retro appliances from Elmira, offers hot looks and high technology. space, bottom freezers, "Visi" shelving for easy access, and Energy StarÒ high-efficiency, low-energy technology.

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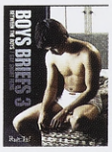
DVDS FOR YOUR GUY

Noah's Arc Season One • LOGO • $39.95
This smart and glossy gay TV show from acclaimed director Patrik Ian Polk (Punks) has been hailed as a "gay black Sex & The City" and it could just be the answer to your Queer as Folk withdrawal symptoms! logoonline.com

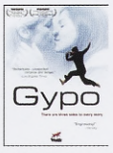


Boys Briefs 3: Between The Boys • Picture This! • $24.95
Getting intimate can be challenging, especially when two guys are involved. Explore the sometimes charming, sometimes sadistic world of hooking up and the wild, sometimes conniving things boys will do to get what they want. picturethisent.com

OpenCam • Wolfe Video • $24.95
A truly sexy jaw-dropping thriller, OpenCam is one of the most entertaining gay films of the year. On the loose in Washington D.C.'s gay community, a serial killer is finding and snuffing his victims at a gay online sex site. The only link is a sexy gay artist who appears to be the common thread in the case. wolfevideo.com

DVDS FOR YOUR GIRL

Loving Annabelle • Wolfe Video • $24.95
Rising heart-throb Erin Kelly stars as Annabelle, a precocious Senator's daughter who falls in love with her teacher Simone (gorgeous Diane Gaidry) at a stodgy Catholic girls boarding school. Inspired by the classic lesbian drama Maedchen in Uniform, out writer-director Katherine Brooks unveils this passionate tale of forbidden love. wolfevideo.com



Gypo • Wolfe Video • $24.95
When young Czech refugee Tasha, comes to a working-class British housewife they are instantly drawn to one another. While Helen endures her bigoted husband and wild teenage daughter, Tasha and her mother deal with the pervasive immigrant-bashing that surrounds them. wolfevideo.com

Imagine Me & You • 20th Century Fox • $27.98
Hailed as one of the few well-received mainstream movies with openly lesbian content, *Imagine Me & You* has been one of the top lesbian rentals and purchased films consistently since its release. foxmovies.com

CDS FOR EVERYONE!

Indigo Girls • Despite Our Differences
Hollywood Records • $18.98
One of the finest pieces of work the duo has ever produced. Over 25 years of working together as recording artists have made these two friends one of the strongest forces in women's music today. indigogirls.com

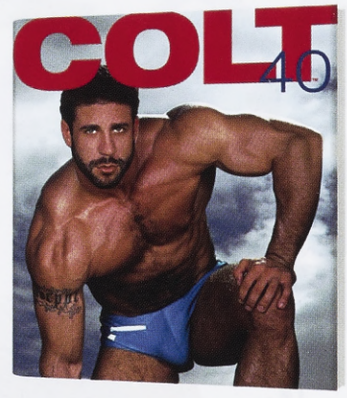
Eric Himan • Everywhere All At Once
Thumbcrown Records • $14.97
After several albums and years of almost non-stop touring, Eric Himan has produced his best work to date. Displaying the incredible growth of his musical talent, this CD breaks past the "moody" Himan persona and explores a playful and maturing side of the performer. erichiman.com

Tori Amos • A Piano: The Collection
Rhino Records • $74.98
Tori Amos has been a GLBT icon since she released her Little Earthquakes CD more than 10 years ago. Now Amos has compiled a collection that is a must have for every household, gay or straight. toriamos.com

Josh Zuckerman • Out From Under
PLH Records • $15.00
Several years ago Josh Zuckerman was a name only known in certain circles. Now thanks to Gay Television Networks and Gay friendly video and radio shows, he is one of the most played Gay artists working today. And he's damn pretty to look at, too. joshzuckerman.com

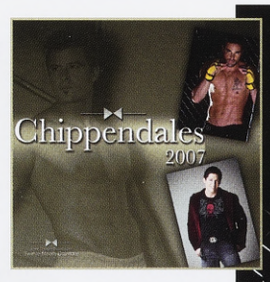
Jessica Simpson• A Public Affair
Sony Records • &18.98
Gossip rags have taken their punches at Simpson: her reality show, failed marriage and sisterly competition. But she shows her unstoppable talent and personal perseverance in this startlingly well-done CD. jessicasimpson.com

The L Word • Showtime • $69.95
The L Word is the biggest lesbian cultural phenomenon of our time. Like the perfect girlfriend it's fun, smart, sexy, entertaining. And available! Season 3 continues the sexy, poignant, melodramatic adventures of Bette, Tina, Shane, Jenny, Alice, Dana, Kit, Helena, Carmen and all their friends. There's no question about it – Season 3 is one wild lesbian adventure! thelword.com



COLT 40 • Colt Studios • $49.95
Celebrate COLT's 40th anniversary with this 160 page collector's book. COLT 40 is a retrospective that highlights the beautiful men that chose to step in front of our cameras over the decades. Since 1967, COLT has created some of the most powerfully erotic images of the male nude, in the process blurring the lines between fine art and erotica. Through the exacting lens of their cameras, COLT Studio Group photographers have sculpted human flesh into objects of true beauty—to be at once admired and desired by all.. coltstudio.com

Dante's Cove Season One
Here TV DVD • $26.95
The steamy, hot series that has captured the attention of gay men and lesbians alike. Mixing several genres including soap opera, sci-fi, supernatural and softcore porn, Dante's cove appeals to a wide audience of TV watchers. Season one of this delicious show would make a great gift for him and her. heretv.com



Chippendales 2006 Calendar
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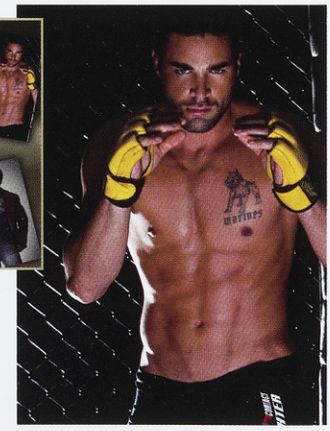
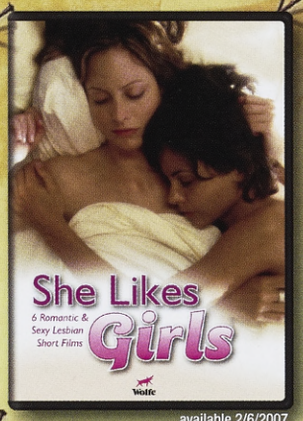
chippendales.com



This Holiday, Visit

Wolfe TERRITORY



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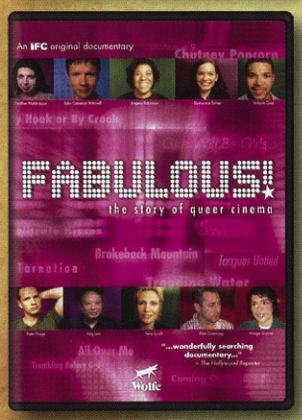

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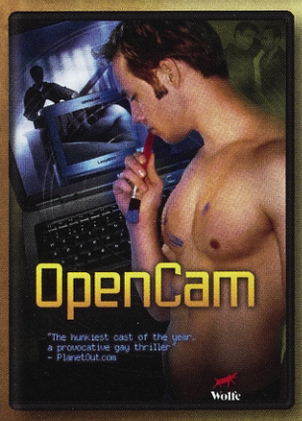

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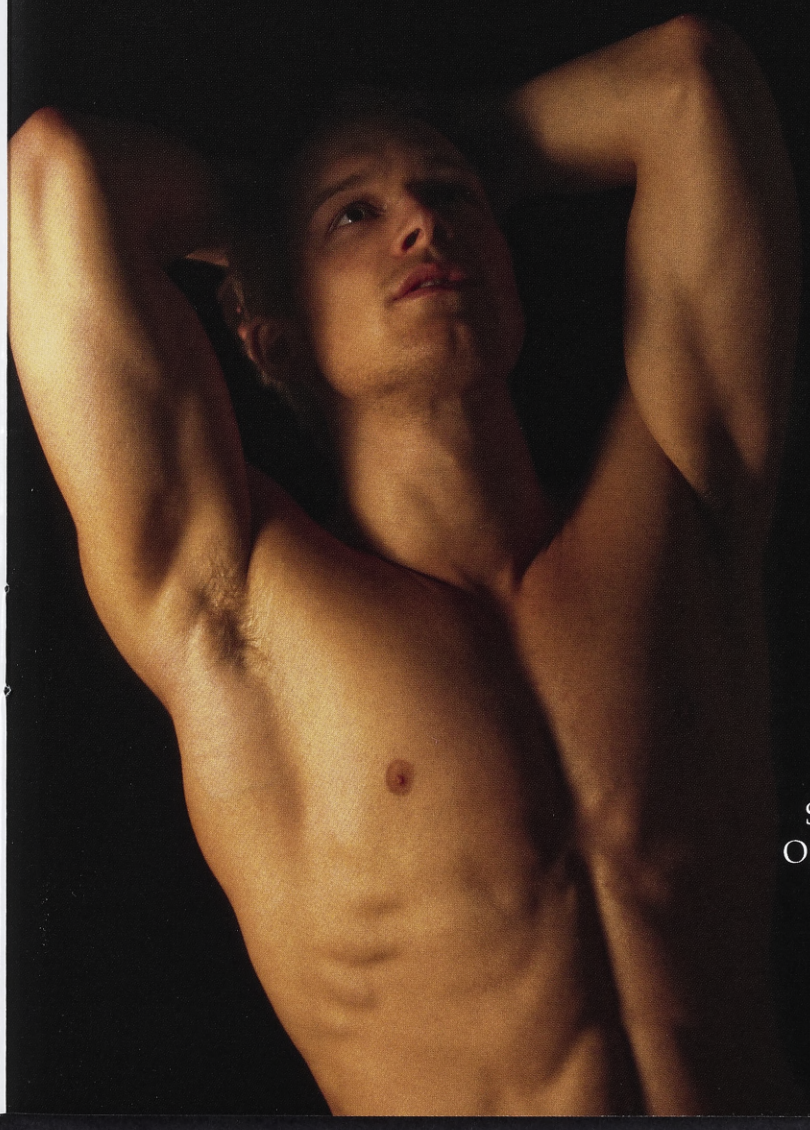

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The New Bond... James Bond

SWANNER AND JUDD

SWANNER: Here it is the holidays and that means Christmas music, Egg Nog, candied grapefruit rinds and Brian hanging a single lonely sad stocking by his space heater. It's also the kick off to Oscar season and that means big budget movies and great performances. There are also some pieces of crap but then there is always at least one gift that goes back to the store. One film that has Oscar written all over it is For Your Consideration. It's a term used by studios to try to garner an Oscar nomination. Director Christopher Guest (Best of Show) has brought his regular cast together to make fun of this tradition.

JUDD: It's not even a stocking—it's a sweat sock that I lost the mate for. I liked For Your Consideration. The movie is about a movie that's in production and there's pre-Oscar buzz about the cast. I love Catherine O'Hara and she was great in this film. I think she was my favorite character in the whole movie as small time actress Marilyn Hack who starts the Oscar gossip.

SWANNER: I loved Catherine O'Hara in this movie too and now she is being talked up as an almost certain nominee for this year's awards. I thought all the performances were good and I have to really give Fred Willard props for bring so many funny moments in the film. I didn't think the movie was up to par with Best of Show, but I did like it a lot. I know these movies aren't for everyone but they are defiantly a favorite in our community. Casino Royale probably won't win any Oscars but it will certainly do some big business. Everyone was questioning weather or not Daniel Craig was going to deliver and he does in spades.

JUDD: I really liked Casino Royale and I went into the theatre thinking it that I wasn't going to enjoy it, especially after seeing that it's two and a half hours long. It was the fastest two and a half hours I've ever experienced. Once I made it past the crappy opening song and title sequence (how I long for the days of Shirley Bassey and Tom Jones) I was on the edge of my seat from beginning to end. And Daniel Craig certainly isn't hard on eyes. That scene where he was coming out of the water in those box-cut swim trunks—YUM!

SWANNER: He was so good in the role. It's was nice to see James Bond: the killing machine and not James Bond: Remington Steele. The song was awful but after the amazing opening chase sequence I was too exhausted to even remember the song. I'm not a Bond fan but I will be looking forward to seeing Daniel Craig in his next Bond venture. I was going to mention the storyline but it's the same as always: James Bond kicks the bad guy's ass.

JUDD: Don't forget he drinks and has sex with the pretty girls. He used to smoke too, but Pierce Brosnan put an end to that. Thank you very much, assbite. Do you want a Trojan to garnish your O'Douls, pussy boy!? Now I'm all upset! I'm ready to talk about the incredibly awful Satan Clause 3 you forced me to see.

SWANNER: If you're sure...We went to see The Santa Clause 3. I wanted to see it and Brian was feeling angry so it seemed the perfect Friday night movie. I was wrong. OK, so I made a mistake. I liked the first two Santa Clause films so I thought this one would be good. I'll say it—it sucked. They took all the charm from the franchise and defecated on it. The script was so lame I don't even know how I would explain the story. It was so bad that I don't know if I can watch the first one again because when I see the scenes that they used from the original film it will remind me of this vile turd.

JUDD: I didn't see the first two so I have no idea what they about. This one is about an overwhelmed Santa being overthrown by a very gay, and very Jewish Jack Frost. Santa's second wife is pregnant, the in-laws are coming as well as the first wife. Creepy? You bet. So Jack Frost, played by Martin Short, takes the opportunity to push Santa over the edge and giving up his power.

SWANNER: Stop! No more! Are you trying to push me over the edge too?

JUDD: Well if the suit fits, Santa.

SWANNER: You have no idea how much I hate you.

JUDD: Finally, I'm going to take the lead and tell the people about Dreamgirls because Tom's been mincing around like a little girl waiting to talk about it and I want to steal his thunder (thighs). We saw Dreamgirls, the movie based on the musical and I loved it so much I'd see it again. Well that's about wraps it up for Swanner and Judd—

SWANNER: "Stop In The Name Of Love!" Dreamgirls is the big picture of the year! It's has ritzy gowns and fabulous wigs. This is the big screen version of the Tony Award winning musical based (loosely) on the Supremes (you can't just dismiss it). This has the screen debut of the amazing Jennifer Hudson—who I spent some time with, so be sure to check out my interview with her—who lights up the screen like Streisand must have when Funny Girl premiered. Dreamgirls is the love child of Bill Condon (Gods and Monsters, Chicago) who wrote and directed the picture proving that he is one of the really great directors working today. All aspects of the film are basically perfect. The acting is wonderful, the set, costumes, music, sound, cinematography are all flawless. Brian, shame on you..."Where Did Your Love Go"?

JUDD: I said I'd see it again! And don't you mean check out OUR interview with Jennifer Hudson? I'm the one that asked all the good questions, you were too busy drooling. "And I Am Telling You" she has real talent. No one is going to tell her to "Fake Your Way To The Top." To all our readers, if you have "One Night Only" to go see a movie, go see Dreamgirls.

SWANNER: Thanks for not making fun of my crying during the film.

JUDD: You're welcome...and Merry Xmas.

SWANNER:
Dreamgirls—★★★★★
Casino Royale—★★★★
For Your Consideration—★★★
Santa Clause 3—0

JUDD
Dreamgirls—★★★★★
For Your Consideration—★★★★
Casino Royal—★★★★
Santa Clause 3—★

Home on the Range

By Stefan Gruenwedel

The Cave of the Yellow Dog
A film by Byambasuren Davaa.
(Not rated, 90 min.)

It's a sad commentary when you cannot watch a film without expecting something bad to happen to at least one character. That's bad for us, because sometimes beauty and drama can unfold in the subtlest of ways.

Byambasuren Davaa's *The Cave of the Yellow Dog* portrays the life of a real nomadic family in Mongolia, the Batchuluuns, as they confront the changes happening in their midst as modernity intersects with tradition.

Reminiscent of Robert J. Flaherty's Nanook of the North, the seminal silent documentary from 1922 that captured the imagination of moviegoers around the world as they learned about an Eskimo family struggling in the Canadian arctic, *The Cave of the Yellow Dog* teaches us about life on the Mongolian steppes. Time runs a little more slowly here, although it is not immune from the inroads of modernity and lure of urbanization. The film has aspects of a fable, but it's more down to earth than that.

The family's life is a tough life, but it's not primitive or particularly wanting. They wear colorful silk clothing. They trade animal skins for basic necessities as well as treats. They power a light bulb in their tent using wind energy.

Set in the dramatic, mountainous landscape of northwest Mongolia, where the director's mother comes from, *The Cave of the Yellow Dog* follows the family for a few months before they must pack up and move to another location to maintain their livelihood as sheepherders.

Using Nansal, the oldest daughter, as its focal point, the film shows how her relative young age does not prevent her from herding animals and helping with life-sustaining chores, such as milking animals and making cheese.

We meet her as she returns from boarding school. Her younger sister, Nansalmaa, is learning to take care of her baby brother, Babbayar, while her mother, Buyandulam Daramdadi, and father, Batchuluun Urjindorj, do all the things that adults must do to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table.

The director, who resides in Germany, spent two months living with the family to make them comfortable with the crew before he began shooting. The result is a sense of intimacy and matter-of-factness that only the best documentaries convey. Much of this was achieved apparently by leaving the camera running to catch them—especially the children—at their most natural.

The Cave of the Yellow Dog is not without suspense. Nansal becomes lost as a storm approaches. Will she find her dog? Will she be able to keep it if she does? Her father worries that it will harm their animals because he suspects it's part wolf.

Like Michael Apted's series about the same group of people over seven-year intervals (28 Up, 35 Up, and so on), it would be interesting to see the Batchuluun family when the children are somewhat older, and when they're all grown up. Will the father have to work in a supermarket in the city in order to feed the family, for example, or will they be able to maintain a relatively happy nomadic existence? Where will Nansal's schooling far away in the big city ultimately take her?

The film has a lot to show about these people's way of life. There's an eternal cycle of reincarnation that imbues their existence. They are close to nature, of course. They live completely self-reliantly. Their totally portable house (yurt) makes a minimal impact on the environment. They connect openly with older generations, who pass on their stories to them. It's these various authentic details that elevate the film above simple documentation.

Even though they will probably wonder what all the fuss is about, the family has certainly caught the attention of audiences around the world, who will want to know how the family fares down the road.

The Cave of the Yellow Dog opens December 15 at the Crest Theatre.

caveoftheyellowdog.com

MUSIC shelf

BETTE MIDLER
BEST OF INTENTIONS
BOX OF WOOD MUSIC

Part of you chuckles sarcastically, the other part of you can't resist purchasing this CD. "Cool Yule" will put a grin on any listeners face from ear to ear. This CD mixes the standard traditional pop pieces—like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and "I'll Be Home for Christmas" with "O Come, O Come, Emanuel." The duet with Johnny Mathis on "Winter Wonderland" is a true highlight. "From a Distance (Christmas Version)" which contains an antiwar statement reminiscent of the holiday tunes of WWII. bettemidler.com

IL DIVO
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COLUMBIA RECORDS

Il Divo is the most successful international break-out story of the past few years, selling more than 13M albums. Conquering the hearts of fans and the charts of nations around the world, the group has 104 gold and platinum awards in 33 countries. Their first two CDs, Il Divo and Ancora, achieved 26 #1 chart positions internationally, including a #1 debut in the United States—the only classical crossover album to ever debut at #1 on the Billboard Top 200. Their first CD was the highest charting debut CD for a UK act ever in America. ildivo.com

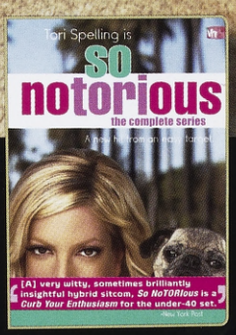
JAMIROQUAI
HIGH TIMES: SINGLES '92-'06
EPIC RECORDS

After 15 years of unbelievable high times, including 159 weeks on the UK singles chart, 232 weeks on the albums chart, 5 MTV Awards, a Grammy, more than 20 million album sales and 5 mammoth world tours—playing to 5 million people in 38 countries, HIGH TIMES—SINGLES 1992-2006 is a stunning reminder of the sheer strength and depth of Jamiroquai's music. The album tracks the decade and a half journey of Jamiroquai's irresistible rare groove and unmistakable barbed disco. jamiroquaimusic.com

PHIL PUTNAM
BEST OF INTENTIONS
BOX OF WOOD MUSIC

Though the course of six years and four albums have taken Phil Putnam through a journey of change and influence beyond explanation and have placed his songs firmly in the lives of countless fans and friends, the central force of it all still comes down to the same simple facts. A man, a piano, and a song. The latest and most advanced release from Phil joins sharp production with impeccable songwriting, establishing Putnam as a seasoned artist. philputnam.com

THE DVD shelf


Tori Spelling is
so notorious
the complete series
[A] very witty, sometimes brilliantly insightful hybrid sitcom, So NoTORIous is a Curb Your Enthusiasm for the under-40 set.
-New York Post

SO NOTORIOUS
PARAMOUNT HOME VIDEO
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Face it, Tori Spelling is not an actress who worked her way up from the bottom—and she knows that. In fact, it is the premise of the show So Notorious which runs along the lines of Kirstie Alley's Fat Actress—only funnier. Spelling plays a slightly over-the-top caricature of herself. The show is homo-genized with a prominent, though slightly cliche, gay character. At times genius, the show employs Spelling saying such lines as "I don't have to be relevant, I'm Tori Spelling!" and slapstick gags such as trying to hide from Shannen Doherty in an adult gift shop which ends in a site gag with a dildo. Forget what prejudice you may hold against Spelling. Whether you hated 90210 or loved Trick—you will love her 1000 times more in So Notorious. vh1.com

TOO COOL FOR CHRISTMAS
LIBERATION ENT.
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The gay version of A Very Cool Christmas—a teenage girl wants nothing to do with her family at Christmas. After meeting the mall's Santa, she finally comes face to face with the true meaning and spirit of the holiday. Two days before Christmas, Lindsay notifies her gay-male parents that her whole class is going skiing on Christmas Day and that she is definitely going too. Lindsay's six-year-old sister Alexis is devastated by the thought of Christmas without her sister. liberationentertainment.com

LITTLE BRITAIN: SERIES 3
BBC WARNER
$29.98

Have you ever thought about visiting Britain? Watch Little Britain and you might think again! Series Three of the ultimate catchphrase comedy sees the welcome return of some favorite characters including Lou and Andy, Marjorie and the Fat Fighters club, Sebastian Love and the Prime Minister, and trash-talk teenager Vicky Pollard. Some very interesting new faces are also introduced as well, such as Dudley, who buys a mail order bride from Thailand. bbc.co.uk/littlebritain

A LOVE TO HIDE
PICTURE THIS! ENT.
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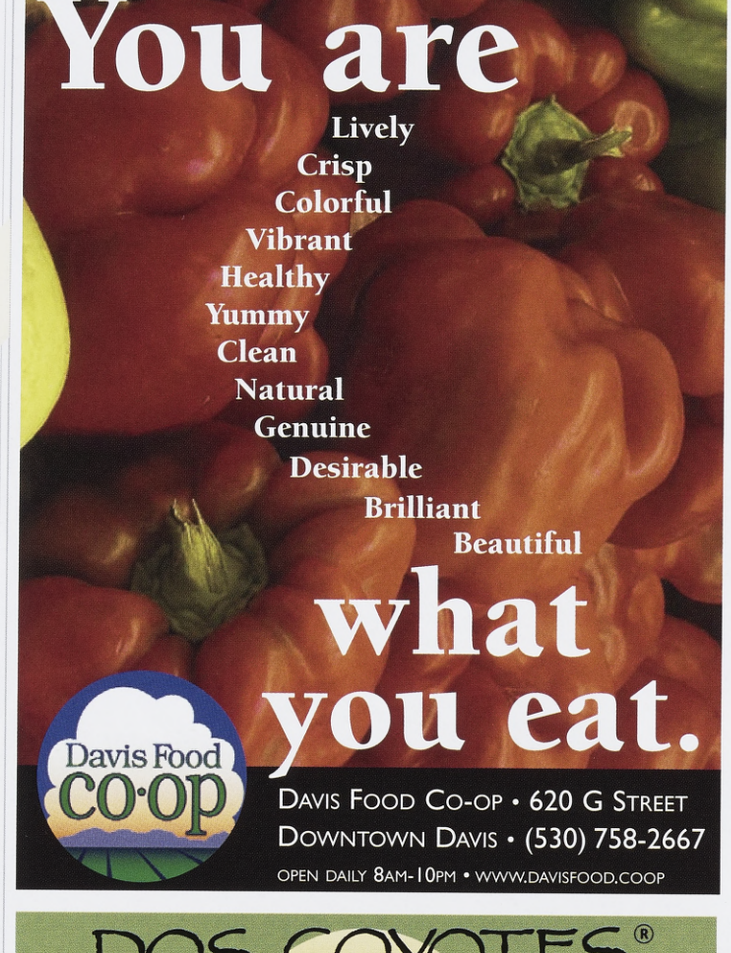
A Love To Hide transpires in German-occupied France during the Vichy persecution of the 'third sex'. Two gay lovers, Jean and Philippe, find their forbidden affair more difficult to hide when Sara, a Jewish woman and Jean's first love, falls into their lives, needing protection. When Jean's black marketeer brother exits prison, jealousy and betrayal threaten to reveal all their secrets and put everyone at risk. A riveting film that keeps you on the edge of your seat. picturethisentertainment.com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HIV NEWSWIRE

by Sonya Cox

QUILT REMAINS A STIRRING SYMBOL, RECEIVES GRANT

When the AIDS Memorial Quilt was last displayed in its entirety in Washington, DC, in 1996, it included 40,000 panels made in memory of more than 70,000 people who had died of AIDS. Today, the Quilt includes 48,000 panels remembering 91,000 (about 17 percent) of the 529,000 Americans lost in the epidemic.

Last month, the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities awarded the AIDS Memorial Quilt a $97,500 grant, one of 29 grants given by the partnership "Save America's Treasures" to preserve significant objects of U.S. history.

On World AIDS Day, segments of the Quilt were displayed at more than 460 sites throughout the country, including Fairfield, Woodland, and Sacramento. The Sacramento display included a moving ceremony at City Hall, coordinated by the World AIDS Day committee comprised of the County Dept. of Health & Human Services, Yolo Health Dept., Breaking Barriers, Jewish Family Services, and local activists who shared their insight, experiences, and knowledge with the large group that attended the event. Thank you to all involved for the poignant display of remembrance of the nearly-2000 friends and loved ones we've lost in this region alone.

MAGIC JOHNSON LAUNCHES HIV CAMPAIGN

Basketball great Magic Johnson has launched a $60 million campaign aimed at cutting HIV/AIDS rates among African Americans by 50 percent in the next five years. The Centers for Disease Control reports that one-third of all AIDS cases now are among African Americans, who account for nearly half of all new HIV diagnoses. For the last six years, HIV and AIDS have remained the leading cause of death for African Americans ages 25-44.

Through a partnership with drug maker Abbott Laboratories, the "I Stand with Magic" initiative will hold HIV testing drives in at least 10 cities each year, sponsor education drives, support local grassroots programs, and provide scholarships for doctors who staff HIV programs in the Black community.

Fifteen years ago, Johnson announced he was HIV-positive and would retire from basketball. He has remained in relatively good health, for which he credits his daily multi-drug cocktail and, possibly, the conditioning that came from playing up to 100 NBA games a year. Johnson is a national spokesperson on HIV, urging young people to practice safe sex and reminding them that HIV can "happen to anyone, even me, Magic Johnson."

He wants to counter the perception of many who interpret his healthy appearance as a sign he has been cured of the virus. Part of the misunderstanding was due to misstatements by his wife after his diagnosis that he had been cured, when she was trying to explain that his meds had allowed his virus to be controlled.

He wants to emphasize to today's young African Americans that there is no cure, and they can't take the attitude that they're going to be as lucky as he was, said Johnson. "The virus acts different in all of us. There's no certainty that if you get HIV, you're going to be OK."

STUDY SAYS DRUG HOLIDAYS DOUBLE YOUR RISK

People who temporarily interrupt their HIV drug regimens more than double their risk of dying or getting non-fatal diseases and infections, according to a new study in the New England Journal of Medicine. Because AIDS drugs are expensive and can have unpleasant side effects, many people over the years have expressed an interest in taking planned breaks in regimen adherence. Some also considered that allowing a fairly healthy immune system time to periodically "recover" from the harshness of the drugs might be beneficial to it. And in fact, several small studies suggested such breaks might be acceptable for those who are responding well to their treatment.

But this new, larger, and longer (four-year) study found that the rate of disease progression or death was more than twice as high in people who took their meds intermittently compared with those who strictly adhered to their regimen. In the study, almost 5,500 people in 33 countries were assigned to one of two groups. One group took their drugs continuously (average adherence: 94 percent). The other group stopped and started based on the health of their immune systems as assessed by blood tests (average adherence: 33 percent).

In the continuous treatment group 30 people died, compared to 55 deaths in the treatment interruption group. In both groups, the leading causes of death included cancers, cardiovascular disease, substance abuse, and AIDS-related opportunistic infections.

In addition, 65 other people in the interruption group experience non-fatal diseases such as infections and AIDS-related cancers. Only 17 people in the strict adherence group experienced non-fatal infections.

The study, which was begun in January 2002, was halted in January 2006 after the interruption group's higher death rate became evident, and all participants were instructed to take their meds continuously from that point on.

BETTER HIV REPORTING FROM CHINA

Chinese media report that cases of HIV and AIDS increased 30 percent last year, with IV drugs as the main source of infection. They report a total of 183,700 new cases for this year, according to the country's minister of health. Of that number, they say 40,000 HIV cases have developed into AIDS.

The news report says the increase in cases is due in part to better reporting efforts of health officials. They say 37 percent of new cases are linked to drug use, about 38 percent to unsafe sex, and just over 5 percent linked to people selling blood illegally or receiving infected blood from hospitals.

Experts say that, in reality, China has hundreds of thousands of people infected with HIV who don't know it or choose not to report it.

GROUPS PROTEST STATE DEPT'S HIV HIRING POLICY

On World AIDS Day, gay and civil rights organizations sent 17,000 petitions to the State Department, urging it to end employment policies that disqualify candidates solely on their HIV status. "The State Department is basing its blanket ban against applicants with HIV on outdated medical information and stereotypes about people with HIV," said the HIV Project Director at Lambda Legal, the gay-lesbian advocacy group.

Lambda Legal currently represents two men, both of whom applied to become Foreign Service Officers and were denied because they have HIV, the group said. In a lawsuit, Lambda Legal charges that the State Department's policy violates the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits the federal government from discriminating against people with disabilities.

POZ VISITORS TO U.S. TO GET VISA WAIVERS

The White House announced on World AIDS Day that the president will soon issue an executive order allowing HIV-positive people from other countries to enter the United States on short-term tourist and business visas. Since 1987, HIV-positive visitors, mostly those attending gay athletic events or international conferences, have had to obtain a special waiver to enter. The special process, however, has long been described as cumbersome, discriminatory, and demeaning.

Under the proposed order, HIV-positive visitors would receive a "categorical waiver" for 60-day tourist or business visas. It is not clear whether sero-status would still have to be declared under this arrangement.

While the announcement received praise from AIDS advocates, they noted that, while it's unquestionably a step away from a terribly discriminatory and inappropriate policy, it doesn't go far enough. The Director of Physicians for Human Rights said, "This is a treatable disease. If you want to remove stigma from AIDS, you have to go the whole distance and eliminate all restrictions on entry to the United States for people with HIV."

Mostly because of this policy, some said, the International AIDS Conference has avoided holding its event in the United States since the 1990 conference in San Francisco. In the meantime, many visitors simply do not declare their sero-status to US officials, and avoid carrying HIV medications through customs.

IN LOVING MEMORY

...OF FRIENDS LOST IN DECEMBER

December 1984:
Frank Cook

December 1985:
Felix Oramas

December 1986:
Rick Hernandez

December 1987:
Ron Parsons

December 1988:
Linda Cottrell
David Marus
Richard Vaughn
Ralph Trainor
Sylvester

December 1989:
Kenneth Allen Karrish
Bill Quinn
Donny Dingler
Roy Frisch
Al Valdez
Bill Lemen
Stan Miguel-Ward
Wayne Rasmussen
Bob Ferrell
Bruce McDonough

December 1990:
Jimmie Collier
Gary Batcher
Johnathan Francorcw
Willis James
Edward Lennane
Jim Nolan

December 1991:
Stan Hadden
Father David Myers
Charles James Hribal, Jr.
Tommy Gossett
Leonard Wilcox
Gilbert Lopez

December 1992:
Michael Patterson
Jim Graham
Michael Barrett
Jim Scaman
Jerry Dye
Margaret Coelho
Xavier Franco

December 1993:
Kim Ingraham
LeRoy Davidson
Ed Walker
Mary King
James Edward Graves
Cliff Clark
Paul Contreras
Rod Ashley
Alfred H. Gaul, Jr.
Kenric Brown
Michael Callen

December 1994:
Gary Smith
Ronnie Neal
George Smith
Gregg Cranert
Ric Marino
Linda L.
Brook R.
Robert Darrell Lippincott
Damon Wilson
John Kiely
Philip Johnson
Sammy Slater
Jerry Moyer
Mike Davis
Michael Naber
Henry Mejia

December 1995:
Perry Florio
Michael Brooks
David Bell
David C.
Thomas D.
James Jumper
Eric Mask
Bill W.
Billy V.
Kent Hull
William C.
Bridgette R.
Richard Steven Sykes
Robert P.
Charles J.
Michael Mears

December 1996:
Paul Arthur Young
Robert Kelly
Emanuel C.
Mike Smith
Verne B.
Eric L.
Roger Dale Helms
Chuck D.
Scott Deering
David Cannales

December 1997:
Kirk Derby

December 1998:
Jeff Smith
Michael M.
Cecil S.

December 1999:
Reni O.

December 2000:
Gary Shaw
Thomas Scott Mountain

December 2001:
Keith Thomas ("Sammy Joe")

December 2003:
Gregory Paul O'Neill
Rashidi "Roc" Ahmad

December 2004:
Clifford Carte
Kathryn LaMadrid

Year Unknown:
John Walters
Frank Wasco
Billie Washington, Jr.
Rick Witnah
Willie Young

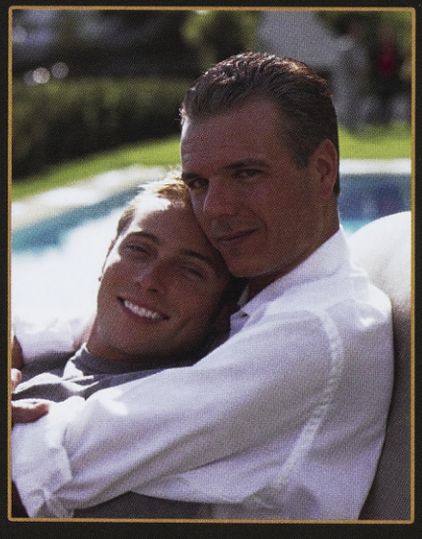
In Loving Memory of friends lost last month: November 2006:

Ivan Briscoe
Jason Rawlinson
Ernest Orozco "Adrian Kline" (Empress 29)

AS LONG AS YOU ARE REMEMBERED, YOU LIVE!

To add the name of friends, family, or loved ones to MGW's IN LOVING MEMORY column, or to clarify a "Year Unknown", call (916) 737-0309.

Gay Millionaires CLUB



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Q. How does it work for those who want to apply to meet a millionaire?

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ccservices.cc/sgmn
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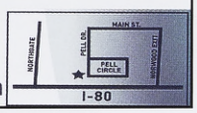

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